GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7428
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2002
BUSINESS TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a business trip to Afghanistan was organised by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the composition of the delegation ;

(c) whether this business mission returned to India without even touching Kabul;

(d) if so, the details in this regard;

(e) the total amount spent by the Government on the visit; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to make up this loss?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a) - (f) As part of its multifaceted efforts to provide reconstruction assistance to Afghanistan, Government of India has facilitated visits of several delegations to Afghanistan, including from the government, corporate sector, as well as Non-Governmental Organistions. Government has also sent several humanitarian consignments on special flights, to provide immediate medical relief and other assistance for the people of Afghanistan. Government had facilitated a detailed interaction of Indian businessmen and organizations with H.E. Mr. Hamid Karzai, during his visit to India on 26-27 February 2002.

During visits of various delegations to Kabul, one of the delegations could not reach Kabul because of bad weather. A delegation from Confederation of India Industries subsequently visited Afghanistan on 17th February 2002.